Continuation of U.S. Patent Application 09/486,715 Preliminary Amendment dated: August 5, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims taking into consideration the prosecution in the parent application. Claims 6-12 have been canceled from the present application. Claims 1-5 and 13-14 were canceled from the parent application in a restriction requirement as being directed to the non-elected invention. This divisional application is directed to the method claims 1-5 and 13-14. Claim 4 has been amended to delete the multiple dependent claim but the deleted subject matter has been reintroduced as new claim 15. The claims now present in this divisional application are claims 1-5 and 13-15.

Applicants believe that these claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are clearly patentable over the references of record in the parent application.

The present application is a continuation application and the prior art cited in the parent application should be taken into consideration in the present application. In accordance with MPEP §2001.06(b) no copies of the prior art in the parent application are submitted herewith. The reference cited forms from the parent application are submitted herewith for the convenience of the Examiner. In accordance with MPEP §609, a Form 1449 listing these references is also submitted herewith. Confirmation that the prior art cited in the parent applications has been considered in the next Official Action is most respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments to the claims an early and favorable action on the merits is now in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

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